Long-Term Forest Biodiversity and Stability PhD position (4 years)

The Forest Ecology Lab at the University of Bern is looking for an enthusiastic PhD candidate to join the OpenRing project, an ERC project now housed at UniBe, to explore long-term forest biodiversity-stability relationships across Europe using big open data. The existing understanding of how biodiversity influences on ecological stability is largely built from theoretical and short-term data. However, for long lived species, such as temperate trees, this means that key processes such as slow accumulation of effects, resilience to rare events, and plasticity, may be overlooked. OpenRing seeks to address this gap by building an integrated framework of biodiversity and stability across scales and taxa, using newly developed big-data approaches on global tree-ring databases.

Join this exciting project, integrating into a newly established team. As PhD candidate you will lead WP1, including 1) coordinating data gathering and sampling across European countries, and using these data to 2) explore the influence of diversity on long-term stability, and 3) to investigate how spatiotemporal scales influence the strength and consistency of this relationship.

-About you-

The PhD candidate will lead their WP but also be offered to engage with other project components. Initiative to develop own projects and interests within the project's theme will be encouraged. We seek candidates who are enthusiastic about improving our understanding of forest responses to climate change and open ecological data. A MSc degree in Ecology or equivalent is required to apply, as well as a strong command of English, oral and written. This position requires frequent travelling and working on outdoor conditions, sometimes under harsh weather. Relevant background knowledge in forest ecology, dendrochronology, and statistical modeling will be valued.

-About us-

The Forest Ecology Lab, part of the Institute of Plant Ecology at UniBe, offers a vibrant, international research environment with great working conditions in Bern -a city with excellent quality of life. The Lab explores diverse topics spanning forest ecology and data science and is committed to create collaborative, inclusive and open science, welcoming applications from a broad diversity of candidates. See our website https://rdmanzanedo.github.io/ for more info on what we are doing and our team.

To apply, send your applications via email (as single PDF) to rdelgado@ethz.ch. Applications should include: -Full CV and - A one-page cover letter highlighting your motivation for applying and the skills that makes you the ideal candidate. Candidates should be ready to provide name and contact of 2 reference people who we would contact if you are shortlisted. Application review will start by May 15, 2024, until the position is filled. Expected starting time is between September and December, 2024.

For questions on the application process or more information on the position or the project, please reach out to Rubén D. Manzanedo at rdelgado@ethz.ch.